

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 04449 061646Z
ACTION EUR-12

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R 061637Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7725
INFO USICA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GE, US
SUBJECT: FOURTH OF JULY IN EAST BERLIN

1. THE AMBASSADOR'S FOURTH OF JULY RECEPTION WAS ATTENDED BY SOME 500-600 GUESTS AND DREW TOGETHER A NOTABLY BROAD CROSS-SECTION OF EAST GERMANS (ALONG WITH JOURNALISTS AND DIPLOMATS) FOR WHAT WE CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN A VERY SUCCESSFUL NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION. THE PARTY AND STATE LEADERSHIP WAS REPRESENTED BY TWO MEMBERS OF THE SED POLIT-BURO, HERMANN AXEN (SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS) AND JOACHIM HERRMANN (IN CHARGE OF AGITATION AND PROPAGANDA); DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE COUNCIL MANFRED GERLACH; DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WOLFGANG RAUCHFUSS, AND MINISTER OF CULTURE HANS-JOACHIM HOFFMANN. THIS CONSTITUTES A SOMEWHAT HEAVIER HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL TURNOUT THAN WE HAD ANTICIPATED OR THAN HAD BEEN INDICATED TO US IN ADVANCE BY THE MFA PROTOCOL OFFICE. PERHAPS THEY HAD LEARNED ABOUT PLANS TO SERVE CHARCOAL-BROILED HAMBURGERS AND BOURBON WHISKY, WHICH PROVED TO BE QUITE ATTRACTIVE.

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IVE.

2. SEVERAL OF OUR CONTACTS, BOTH EAST AND WEST GERMAN, HAVE COMMENTED THAT THE DIVERSITY OF THE CROWD, INCLUDING DISSIDENTS, CHURCHMEN, WRITERS, INTELLECTUALS, ARTISTS, DIPLOMATS, JOURNALISTS, AND VARIOUS PARTY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, WAS EXTRAORDINARILY CATHOLIC BY

EAST BERLIN STANDARDS. ASIDE FROM CREATING A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR US EMBASSY STAFF MEMBERS TO DEVELOP THESE CONTACTS FURTHER, THE RECEPTION DEMONSTRATED TO OUR GDR OFFICIAL CONTACTS THAT THE EMBASSY IS ACTIVELY INTERESTED IN CULTIVATING A CROSS-SECTION OF THE EAST GERMAN PUBLIC, INCLUDING THOSE OUT OF OFFICIAL FAVOR. PERHAPS AS A REFLECTION OF THIS FACT, AT LEAST ONE EMBASSY OFFICER WHO DEPARTED THE RECEPTION WITH DISSIDENT EAST GERMAN FRIENDS WAS CAREFULLY SHADOWED BY SECRET POLICE AGENTS FOR THE REST OF THE EVENING.

3. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND OF JULY 4 PRINTED HONECKER'S GREETINGS TO THE PRESIDENT ON PAGE ONE, REPEATING LAST YEAR'S PRACTICE, AND THE AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION RECEIVED FACTUAL GDR PRESS TREATMENT. BOLEN

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